

News from the Wyoming Department of Health

Thursday, June 3, 2010

Report Describes Challenges Faced by Cancer Survivors

June is National Cancer Survivors Month

The Wyoming Comprehensive Cancer Control Consortium is distributing a “Wyoming Survivorship Report,” which celebrates cancer survivors currently living in the state as well as noting the barriers they may face.

Cancer is the second leading cause of death in Wyoming and the United States. For 2009, it was estimated that 2,500 Wyoming men and women were diagnosed with cancer and approximately 1,000 died as a result of the disease.

“Statisticians continue to report the number of people who are diagnosed as having cancer and who then survive is increasing,” said Jessica Perez, Wyoming Comprehensive Cancer Control Program outreach specialist with the Wyoming Department of Health. “Advances in the early detection and treatment of cancer are helping people live for many years after a diagnosis.”

“A ‘survivor’ is anyone living with a history of cancer – from the moment of diagnosis through rest of their life,” Perez said.

Perez noted Wyoming’s cancer survivors may face many challenges such as hindered access to cancer specialists and promising new treatments, inadequate or no insurance, financial hardships, employment problems and psychological struggles. “Despite these potential difficulties, cancer survivors can live active, meaningful and productive lives,” she said.

In 2006, about 11.4 million people with a previous diagnosis of cancer were living in the United States. According to the Wyoming Cancer Surveillance Program, Wyoming has approximately 26,719 cancer survivors, which has increased from 20,072 in 2005.

To obtain a free copy of the printed report, contact Perez at 307-777-7362. An electronic version is also available online at www.fightcancerwy.com.

####